

088/02376 AO1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: A. LOSHAKOVE et. al.  
Serial Number: Not yet assigned  
Filed: December 8, 1999 as PCT/IL99/00670  
For: VASCULAR SURGERY  
Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Further to the concurrent filing of a U.S. national stage application of PCT application PCT/IL99/00670, kindly amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Kindly replace the "Related Applications" section on page 1, immediately after the title, with the following section:

**-- RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a national phase filing of PCT/IL99/00670. This application is a Continuation-in-part of PCT application PCT/IL99/00284, now US application 09/701,531 and of PCT application PCT/IL99/00285, now US application 09/701,523, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Kindly delete claims 5, 20 and 23-73 without prejudice.

**REMARKS**

The present application is a U.S. national application of PCT application PCT/IL99/00670 filed December 8, 1999. The present amendment, based on the originally filed claims, has been made solely in order to reduce the number of claims pending an anticipated second preliminary amendment which will be based on the IPER claims.